

JULY · 1897

Thats the best I can do. Ill go to work the 15th of July and spend my time on the road. Texas is a big state and until the annual convocation which takes place in Oct (2nd Wednesday) I will keep on moving. With the means to do this at my command I think I ought to have 5000 persons, some improved homes, some purchase of land &c and at least 100 societies by that time. If we succeed and get a great gathering you might come over and give us a good talk. A talk with my crowd means *results*. You'll *see* it after a few months.

Now Ive written a long letter and I do hope you will see this as I see it and will take hold of it. I have worked hard in this state without ever having recd any aid and now that I see a ray of light for God sake dont close it. You can succeed in doing untold Good here at small cost with the assurance that if things dont pan out I'll take the responsibility of returning the money to you or whoever it comes from. Of course you will not understand this as a begging letter or me as a begger or anything like that. It is a plain business proposition to encourage the planting & growth of those ideas for which Booker T Washington stands as their greatest living champion and exponent.

Thanks for book I read it with great interest. Our society was organized in 1891. I must have made a mistake at Conference.

Now lets have a big thing at Conference of 98 — Respectfully & Cordially and I may add Hopefully Yours

R. L. Smith

ALS Con. 134 BTW Papers DLC.

From Joseph Oswald Thompson

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2, 1897

Dear Sir, Yours dated Chicago, 26th ult. just to hand. I appreciate very much the interest you are manifesting in my behalf.

While in Washington I met Ex. Congressman Murray of South Carolina. You will remember him as the successful contestant for Col. Elliot's¹ seat and the man for whom our Representative, at that time, Capt. Goodwyn, voted to seat.

I made myself known to him as your friend and the choice of Capt. Goodwyn and it was he who introduced me to P.M. Gen'l.